

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

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THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 21st February 1983, commencing at 4 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black
Mr. A. Dash
Mr. A. Gill
Mr. E. J. Long
Mr. M. Rundle
Mr. O. J. Slattery
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson
Mr. B. Greer

Chairman

Executive Officer
Business Adviser,
Employment Co-operative Development
Programme

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr. B. H. Macintosh
Mr. J. Mitchell
Mr. J. Rigby

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 17th January 1983, having been circulated to all Councillors, were confirmed as a correct record subject to the amendment of the word "application" in Minute 4.iv to read "affiliation". The Minutes were adopted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i Directors' Manuals - Minute 4.ii

Sample of Directors' Manual used by Co-operative Federation of Western Australia was tabled.
Sample from New South Wales promised. Council agreed

to defer discussion on this item until the N.S.W. manual received and a summary paper prepared.

3.ii Dairy Industry Stabilisation Fund - Minute 5.ii

Following checks with other Dairy Co-operatives, Dairy Farmers of Victoria and Australian Dairy Corporation a request was made to C.F.A. and a letter was despatched to the Prime Minister on the relationship of Co-operative membership, ministerial office and the present Minister for Primary Industry.

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3.iii Industrial Democracy Publication - Minute 10.ii.vi

One copy of the publication by the Fabian Society on Worker Co-operatives and the A.L.P., written by Race Matthews, was tabled. Council expressed some reservation on distribution by the Federation of a document with advertised political affiliation. However, Council agreed

to peruse the content of the publication and decide on distribution policy at the next meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i From Registry, Co-operative Societies

listing strength of Co-operative Societies in Victoria.

Council decided

These statistics with comparative figures for 12 months previously be included in report from Council to members.

4.ii From Co-operative Federation of Australia

Requesting assistance with funding Victorian part of National Co-operative research project.

Council agreed

to support the proposal in principle and after confirmation of similar agreement by other State Federations to assess arrangements needed and costs.

4.iii To Ballarat Employment Co-operative

Advising accountant's comments on "winding up" clause refers to Co-operative's Rules and not the Model Rules.

4.iv To Co-operative Insurance Company

Draft letter to Registrar seeking special consideration for acceptance of C.I.C. as a Co-operative and authority for admittance into membership of the incorporated Federation.

4.v To Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

seeking attitudes to loss of Co-operative Society privilege of exemption from stamp duty and imposition of duty on deposits with Financial Institutions.

5. FINANCIAL

Statement of Income - Expenditure for period 1.7.82 to 31.1.83 and Estimated Balance Sheet as at 31.1.83 was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

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6. INCORPORATION

The Certificate dated 8th March 1981 was tabled by the Registrar of Australia. Council agreed.

7. LEGISLATION

A Paper Trainin Council

6. INCORPORATION OF THE FEDERATION

The Certificate of Incorporation of Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. dated 8th February 1983 received in the Federation office on 17th February was tabled. Council noted the name of The Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia Ltd. was deleted from the foundation membership list by the Registrar pending clarification of their Co-operative status.

Council welcomed this progress and directed

- (i) A special meeting of members be called for 18th April 1983 for the purpose of electing the first directors.
- (ii) That all existing members of the unincorporated Federation be invited to attend and submit names of representatives willing to serve on the board of the incorporated Federation.
- (iii) That the names of the present 10 members of the Council of the unincorporated Federation all nominated as delegates of member Co-operatives of the incorporated Federation be listed for information of members as offering themselves for election as the first directors.
- (iv) That voting at such special meeting will be confined to members whose application for qualifying shares has been received by the Federation.
- (v) That where nominees for directors are officers, and not members of member co-operatives, prior authority of the Registrar has to be obtained in accordance with Co-operative Societies Advisory Council resolution August 1982 before appointment as directors.
- (vi) That arrangements for production of the Federation Rules be made.
- (vii) That the Registrar be advised that the present Council of the unincorporated Federation recommend to the incoming Board of Directors of the incorporated Federation that Thompson Douglass be appointed to act as interim auditors to facilitate the transfer of assets from the unincorporated Federation to the incorporated Federation.

7. LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF FEDERATION INVOLVEMENT IN EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A paper prepared by the Committee for submission to the Minister of Employment and Training was presented to the Council, discussed in detail and amendments agreed.

Council agreed

that after amending, as agreed, the review paper be finalised and be submitted to the Minister.

A copy of the final paper is appended to the file copy of these Minutes as Appendix 'A'.

8. 1983 CONFERENCE

Reservation of the Yarra Room, Olympic Park, has been made for Tuesday, 9th August 1983.

Federation members were invited to submit suggestions for a desired Conference programme; none were received.

Council directed the Executive Officer to submit a proposed programme for consideration at its next meeting.

9. REPORTS

9.i Employment Co-operative Development Programme

Mr. Greer reported that a successful conference was organised by the Education and Training Unit at Lorne over the weekend 11/13th February 1983.

Mr. Greer reported that instructions have been received from the Ministry for the submission of proposals on a restructuring of the service units of the programme, i.e. the Business Advisory Unit and the Education and Training Unit. The Vocational Orientation Centre, R.M.I.T., has agreed to relinquish the present arrangement by which the E. & T. Unit operates under its auspices.

Of several alternatives being considered, two are -

one, for the E. & T. Unit to join with the B.A. Unit under the auspices of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria;

two, to establish a Co-operative Development Unit, possibly as a Co-operative, with control to include outside influences such as Trade Unions, Financial and Marketing expertise as well as participating Co-operatives and the Unit to affiliate with the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

A meeting of Co-operatives in the programme has been called for 7th March 1983 to discuss these propositions from which it is planned to develop firm recommendations.

Council agreed

to reconsider this matter after receipt of the recommendations, at its next meeting.

9.ii Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported the Council met on 17th February 1983. In addition to considering applications for Treasury guarantees the meeting was advised that the Minister's direction on amendments to the Co-operation Act is for an amending Bill to be submitted to the 1983 Autumn session of Parliament.

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A Co-operative Housing Bill has been drafted providing for a new type of housing co-operative including rental housing with modified director control.

The Council considered no action should be taken on the submission from the Federation concerning imposition of Financial Institutions Duty on Co-operatives previously exempted from payment of stamp duty on cheques.

The Federation Executive Officer and the Ministry's legal adviser were directed to prepare a paper for consideration at the next meeting of Council on the subject of promotion of understanding of co-operative philosophy, particularly amongst Community Advancement Co-operatives using Treasury guarantees.

9.iii Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported that the President, Mr. Herring, and Mr. O'Neill, the two N.S.W. representatives on the Council, had resigned from the N.S.W. Federation Council and consequently from the C.F.A. Council. Mr. Poustie, Western Australia Vice President, is currently acting as President.

A meeting of the Council has been called for 17th March 1983 in Melbourne.

9.iv Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported having attended meetings of the group involved in the T.A.F.E. Transition project for development of Co-operatives in Schools. The project has been authorised and funding approved but subsequent cuts in T.A.F.E. Budget are causing delay in implementing the project. Mr. Rawlinson has made written submissions to the Federal and State Ministers of Education appealing for urgency in this matter.

He attended meetings with the Division of Business Studies, Footscray T.A.F.E. to consider development of a course on formation and operation of Co-operatives.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Rawlinson reported that the Herd Improvement Organisation of Victoria had proposed a submission to the State Government on behalf of farmers who have suffered property and stock damage in the recent disastrous bushfires. Council directed that present and proposed Government assistance to such farmers should be ascertained and, if considered necessary thereafter, a joint case be prepared for consideration by the Federation executive.

11. NEXT MEETING

Council agreed this should be held on

Monday, 21st March 1983 - TO COMMENCE AT 7 P.M.

The meeting will be preceded by a liaison visit to -

CORRECT LINE GRAPHICS CO-OPERATIVE,
193 SMITH STREET,
FITZROY.

to commence at 4 p.m. followed by an informal meal with
directors and members of that Co-operative prior to the
Council meeting.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.15 p.m.

Phil Harris 21-3-83

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1. PRESENT

In attendance

Apologies

2. MINUTES

Minutes
confirmed

3. MATTERS

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